

# The UB Scholar's Digest



## UB MISSION

Our mission is to provide the skills and motivation for low-income and first generation youth to be successful in high school and to be able to enter and succeed in college.

## Director's Notes...

Greetings!

Just as our seniors are anxiously awaiting news of college acceptances, we are anxiously awaiting the outcome of our recent grant submission. We are optimistic that we will be funded for another five years but we won't know for sure until May 29<sup>th</sup>. Keep your fingers crossed for us!

I have just returned from an amazing trip to India with Nidhi Malik (UB '12) and twelve other NMH students and adults. The highlight of our trip was the time we spent in Nidhi's village, Bidhal. The hospitality and generosity of the Malik family were exceptional. The Maliks opened their

homes to thirteen strangers, fed us wonderful home cooked meals made from food they grew and they shared their daily lives with us. Playing cricket with the village children, learning folk dances and Indian cooking, chatting with a new bride about her future and participating in every aspect of village life made for powerful real life experiences we will long cherish. We were very fortunate to be invited to an Indian wedding. What a spectacular feast for the eyes, ears, hearts and mouths! We were moved by the broad and deep connectedness of families and villages, while recognizing the impact of the rapid growth and change that is happening in India. We

also spent time in Rishikesh, Varanasi, Agra, and Delhi, all rich repositories of ancient culture, history and spirituality. I highly recommend traveling to places that challenge your notion of what is truly needed to live a meaningful life.

Nidhi was quite the celebrity! Relatives vied for a few minutes with her. Here she is with a nephew she is meeting for the first time and one of her many lovely aunts. Namaste!  
Gisele



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## Upward Bound Welcomes New Scholars

The Upward Bound community has grown to include forty new students. Applicants were selected for the program in a competitive process which involved an in depth application, interview, essays, letters of recommendation and a review of grades and test scores. Congratulations to students who were selected! The new scholars and their families were wel-

comed into the program at the February 4<sup>th</sup> New Student Orientation on the NMH campus. Families learned about the path to college as well as program benefits, expectations and the many ways that parents can be involved. Student ambassadors Rosa Oliveras '12, Sam Lawson '12, Jocey Adorno '11', and Nsabimana Hawa '12, led ice breakers,

commitment exercises and campus tours for the students and their families. New students began attending advising meetings, after school enrichment classes, tutoring, college visits and our special events in early February. We are very excited to welcome our new, ambitious, young scholars and we look forward to the great things we know they will accomplish!



## New Faces at Upward Bound



**Crystal Cortes**  
Holyoke High School

**What do you like about Upward Bound so far?**

I like that I get a healthy snack before I start homework and I enjoyed learning more about the career I'm interested in.

**What are your goals?**

My goals are to graduate and get into a great college to be what I want to be.

**What are you looking forward to?**

I'm looking forward to meeting new people and seeing what being on the campus is like.



**Jazmyn S. Brewington**  
Turners Falls High School

**What do you like about Upward Bound so far?**

That I'm surrounded by people who care about me and want me to do well.

**What are your goals?**

To go to college, get good grades, and make my family and myself proud.

**What are you looking forward to?**

Finishing Upward Bound with a lot of friends and family behind me.



**Ju'wan Collins**  
Springfield Renaissance School

**What do you like about Upward Bound so far?**

That they help me with my homework.

**What are your goals?**

To get a higher GPA and get better in writing and math.

**What are you looking forward to?**

The summer classes and going to college.



Upward Bound is a family affair. A young Ju'wan and his older brothers, Ziggy and Hakeem, at Family Day in 2009.

## Conversations on College and Career

Students explored a range of career opportunities at our annual Career Day. Eleven presenters including alumna Marina Leonovich (Urgina) '03, volunteered their time. Students learned about physical therapy, victim advocacy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, journalism, city planning, environmental engineering, internet technology, translating and interpreting, psychology, and teaching. It was a great opportunity for students to learn about these occupations and what it takes to pursue these careers. After dinner at Alumni Hall, students participated in various recreational activities including step dance, yoga, pickling, and board games. Special thanks to presenters and volunteers who helped make this full day event a huge success.

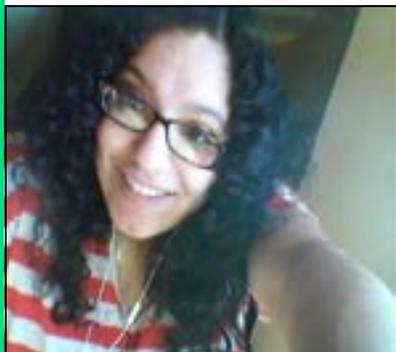
Career Day kicked off a busy week full of college trips. While most high school students spend their vacation sleeping in, our students were up early visiting colleges in order to learn what options they may have. On Tuesday, students travelled across the state and visited UMASS Dartmouth. After an information session and tour of the campus, UB graduates Hector Carrasquillo '11 and Katie Cutting '11 joined our students for lunch and shared their experiences so far. On Wednesday, students visited Middlebury College in Vermont. The final trip on Thursday was to Worcester State College where alumna Mariann Ortiz '10, joined us for the information session and part of the tour.

UB students got to hear about different colleges, special programs offered at some schools and imagine themselves living and learning at one of these campuses. We look forward to returning to these campuses when our current students will likely be the ones giving tours to UB students!





# Senior Spotlight



**Rosa Oliveras**  
Holyoke High School

**How did you feel when you finally finished your applications?**

I felt relieved when I finished my applications because I knew some friends of mine were still struggling with their applications.

**What was it like when you received your first college acceptance letter?**

I felt really excited.

**When thinking about the years ahead, what about college most excites you?**

Everything about college excites me. I'm looking forward to the new environment, people, and opportunities.

**Do you have any words of wisdom for the new UB scholars?**

Wisdom . . . I guess do what your advisor tells you because the truth is, in the long run it'll help you.

**What is your favorite UB memory?**

My favorite UB memory was definitely meeting my best friend, Jocey. Without this program, I would never have met her. It's amazing the different types of people you meet here.



**Irina Mihailenco**  
Greenfield High School

**How did you feel when you finally finished your applications?**

When all my applications were finished I was very relieved and was very excited to wait and see where I would get accepted. It was a very long and hard process but it felt awesome in the end when everything was finished.

**What was it like when you received your first college acceptance letter?**

OMG when I got my first acceptance letter from Fairfield I was speechless. I was jumping up and down with the letter in my hand and I think I read the word "Congratulations" about 50 times! Then after I calmed myself down I asked my mom if the letter was really real. It felt good knowing that I actually got

accepted into Fairfield and they want me to go there!

**When thinking about the years ahead, what about college most excites you?**

I am a little scared because college is scary, but I am very very excited. I want to start learning in a new environment and study something that I am interested in, which is nursing!! I want to become independent and I think college will be a great way to start.

**Do you have any words of wisdom for the new UB Scholars?**

Dear new UB Scholars, Never be afraid to take risks because in the end it's all worth it. All 9th through 12th grade I was scared to take hard classes because I didn't want to fail them and ruin my GPA. With

hard work I managed to stay on top of things and now I am very, very glad I stayed in those hard classes.

**What is your favorite UB memory?**

I remember last summer when the seniors had to come a day early to take senior-leader lessons. We played a game of the cat chasing the mouse and I was the mouse running through a maze screaming "switch" so the walls of the maze could switch and block the cat from catching me. It felt good being around my UB friends again and being in a group of students who want the same thing that I want, which is to go to college and have a good career.

How did you feel when you finally finished your applications?

It feels good to be done with the process because I don't have to write any more essays.

What was it like when you received your first college acceptance letter?

I was so happy because I have more options than just community college. I was so excited to get my first acceptance letter.

When thinking about the years ahead, what about college most excites you?

I can't wait to play college soccer but what most excites me is getting an education.

### Irakoze Vincent

Springfield Renaissance School



## Some UB Acceptances to date!



American International College	Hampshire College
American University	Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Anna Maria College	Middlebury College
Assumption College	Holyoke Community College
Bard College	New England College
Bay Path College	Oral Roberts University
Bennington College	Providence College
Brandeis University	Saint Anselm College
Clark University	Salem State University
Colgate University	Smith College
College of the Holy Cross	Temple University
DePauw University	UMASS Amherst
Elms College	UMASS Dartmouth
Emerson College	UMASS Lowell
Emmanuel College	Union College
Fairfield University	University of Bridgeport
Fitchburg State University	University of Vermont
Framingham State University	Westfield State University
Franklin & Marshall College	Worcester State College

One UB Senior's comment on his college acceptance: "It's going to be like UB, only worse!!"  
We hope he means that he is grateful for all the rigorous preparation he got at UB!



*Congratulations to the class of '12!*





**UB After School Classes and Tutoring**

## Alicia Hathaway '12 Awarded Student of Character



**Alicia Hathaway**  
Senior at Turners Falls  
High School

ABC Channel 40 and the Springfield Republican sponsors the annual Student of Character Award. Local high school students are nominated based on civic engagement, strong character, and for overcoming adversity. Students who are chosen are featured on the news station and in the Republican.

Alicia was nominated by her UB Academic Advisor, Sharon Gralnick, because of her dedication to working with infants and young children. She has volunteered for Toys for Tots, the Salvation Army, and she has helped fundraise for the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program. Her goal is to become a neonatal nurse. Alicia has already started on this path by being a birth partner on two separate occasions. Alicia has been a great leader in her school and in the Upward Bound community. We are very proud to see her recognized for all the great things she has done. Congratulations Alicia!

To see Alicia on ABC40 go to this link: <http://www.wggb.com/student-of-character/> and to see her in the Republican go to this link; [http://www.masslive.com/living/index.ssf/2012/02/student\\_of\\_character\\_alicia\\_m\\_hathaway.html](http://www.masslive.com/living/index.ssf/2012/02/student_of_character_alicia_m_hathaway.html)

## Katherine Casado-Berg '13 Selected for Resident Leader Position at NMH



Katherine Casado-Berg has been selected to be a Resident Leader in her dorm next year; an honor achieved through a very competitive application and interview process. Resident Leaders are role models in their dorms and members of the house staff. They are responsible for organizing student life activities and they serve as liaisons to other faculty, staff and students. Individuals in this position are expected to live up to community standards at all times while addressing students who don't live up to the standards. Katherine will be a resident leader next fall in the Rikert dorm. We are so proud to see Katherine emerge as a leader and role model at Northfield Mount Hermon after being here for less than a year!

Congratulations and good luck to Katherine!



## Students Voices are Heard: 10th Annual Legislative Forum for Youth

This year marked the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Legislative Forum for Youth. The forum provides a venue for local youth to speak out during round-table discussions with local and state legislators. The event was organized by Dial/Self and the YouthServe AmeriCorps members. Some of the Legislators who were in attendance included Senator Ben Downing, Representative Denise Andrews, Representative Steve Kulik and Greenfield Mayor Bill Martin. UB scholars Meredith Brown, Rahul Malik, Manisha Malik, Aliona Olaru, and Cheyanna Woodard participated in the event.



## Advocating for TRiO Programs



Anna Rigali, NMH UB Academic Advisor, Adriana Lara NMH UB'07, and NEOA Massachusetts State Liaison, Drew Goodwin at Congressman John Olver's office.



Adriana, Alvin Riley (Director of Student Support Services at Massasoit Community College), Anna Rigali, and Drew Goodwin on Capital Hill.

Many issues such as funding cuts, policy changes and shifting political priorities threaten the future of TRiO programs such as Upward Bound. The most important thing we can do to stop this is to inform those who make legislative decisions about the importance of TRiO programs and to share with them details about the needs and successes of our programs.

In mid-March Anna Rigali, UB Academic Advisor, and alumna Adriana Lara '07 attended the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Policy Seminar in Washington D.C. sponsored by the Council for Opportunity in Educa-

tion, our national professional association. The attendees of the seminar learned about challenges facing TRiO programs and how to advocate with members of Congress. After two days of preparation, teams from every state met with their respective representatives and senators. Four hundred TRiO staff and alumni went to Capital Hill on Tuesday, March 13th. Participants sent the message to Congress that TRiO Programs work and that we need to continue to expand educational opportunities for all students.

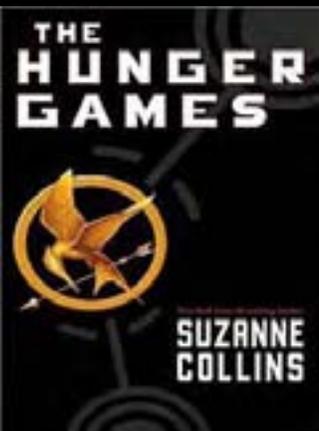


## UB Scientists ! Three Greenfield scholars advance to the State Science Fair

We are proud of the three Greenfield High School sophomores who will compete at the state science fair. Paris Felogloy and Manisha Malik chose the topic: Dose Response Bioassay. They tested the toxicity of copper sulfate, which is a major ingredient in weed killer. Vicki Balis placed third at the regional science fair competition. She studied the effect of road salt on New England microorganisms. Kudos to Vicki, Paris, and Manisha! We wish you luck at the state science fair!



## May The Odds Be Ever In Your Favor: Upward Bound hosts a showing of *The Hunger Games*



*The Hunger Games* trilogy has become a world-wide sensation! Many UB students read the first book of the series in our Humanities class last summer. Our students were captivated by the story and inspired by the characters to recognize and address injustice in their own lives. The Franklin County Parent Advisory Council (PAC) held a viewing of the film adaptation at the Garden Cinemas in Greenfield on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Parents made delicious treats for the bake sale which was inspired by *The Unofficial Hunger Games Cookbook* which featured some of the main characters' favorite dishes. Attendance at the 9 a.m. showing was surprisingly strong! All proceeds will support scholarships for our seniors. Thanks to parents, staff and students for making this event a great success!

## Class Notes from UB Alumni



**Danielle Brown, Turners Falls High School '01, Bridge-water State College '05, UB Office Manager '03-'05, Holyoke Academic Advisor '06-'07.**

I've been working in the development office at Smith College for just over a year. My boss and I are the International Advancement department at Smith; we raise money for the college from alumnae and parents who live outside the U.S. and Canada. We also do a lot of work with international students, which is fun for me and reminds me of my time at Upward Bound. I love working at Smith! A few UB grads have gone there and I hope a few more apply! If any UB students are interested in Smith, feel free to contact me.

This summer, I'm going to China and Taiwan for three weeks with the president of Smith College. My boss and I are planning the whole trip, which will take us through Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, Chengdu, Nanjing, Guangzhou, and Taipei and will have events planned for Smith College alumnae, current and prospective students, and parents who live in Asia. It's going to be a lot of work, but I'm very excited!

I'm still a strong supporter of Upward Bound and hope that the program continues to be successful. I owe a lot to UB and wouldn't be where I am now without having gone through the program as a student and then having gained great experience from working with students.

### **Clayton Brunette, Greenfield High School '03, Westfield State University**

I did three summers at Upward Bound and it was an excellent experience. Since UB, I completed five semesters at Westfield State, but withdrew because my girlfriend at the time became pregnant with our first son. I went to work for the Franklin County Sheriff's Office where I have been for almost six years. I am currently in the process of becoming a Deputy. My wife and I have two amazing little boys together. Trevor is five and Maxon is three. We recently moved into our first house in Erving, MA. I plan to enroll Maxon into preschool this fall so that I can finish my Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice at Westfield State. I still keep in touch with several of the people I went to UB with and cherish the memories I have from my UB summers.



### **Gordon Burnett, NMH '08, College of the Holy Cross '12, TCI '09-'11**

I am currently teaching Honors and Regular Chemistry at North High School in Worcester. I recently interviewed for a teaching internship at NMH and I am waiting to hear back. Also I am excited to say that I will be returning to my fourth UB Summer Academy as a chemistry teacher this June.

### **Caitlin Anable, Holyoke High '11, Bay Path College**

I am doing great at college. Since winter break, there is not a day in which my friends don't laugh. We had a cake war one night.

### **Kevin Wasielewski, Turners Falls High School 2004, Franklin & Marshall College 2008**

My two years as an advisor for the National College Advising Corps wraps up at the end of May. This summer I am to be the Assistant Director of a summer prep program for 165 Juniors from all over the country for three weeks (very similar to Upward Bound).

And for the fall, I have been applying to schools for Master's programs and currently I am deciding between Drexel and U. Illinois- Chicago for an MPH in Community Health Science and Prevention. I have been offered a Graduate Assistance position at UIC for full tuition and a \$20k/yr stipend.



## Friends of UB

### Adam Kosakowski, TCI/Assistant Dormhead '08-'11

This spring I am planning my wedding. The big day is June 15th! I am looking for a new job to truly start my career. I am trying to focus my job search on college campus jobs where I can advise students in any way. I want nothing more than to continue what I loved at UB and help students discover themselves through their education.

### Laura Eagle, Assistant Academic Advisor YouthServe AmeriCorps '02-'03

I am currently in my 9th year of working for a TRiO/ETS program serving alternative high school students at the Multnomah ESD in Portland, OR. I have been married for 5 years and have a 3 1/2 year old son named Evan, and a 6 month old daughter named Leah.



Laura and her family enjoying a day at the beach.

### Jiovani Robles, TCI Summer '11

Jiovani has been very busy in his studies and has recently decided to

complete a triple major, adding Dance to his Film and Theatre majors. In the Spring of 2013 he will be producing and directing a play he has written which contains a dream sequence that

makes an astounding number of UB references and allusions to NMH, scholars, and even dormitory fiascos. He will also be at Harvard

University this summer teaching a Film & Photography course. While he will not be able to join UB this summer he sends his love and prayers to all of the scholars.

Without a doubt, he asks all of the scholars: remember to always shoot for the moon because even if you miss you will land among the stars!



**THE UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM (UB)** at Northfield Mount School (NMH) is a federally funded initiative designed to provide low-income students with the skills and motivation needed to succeed in high school and college. UB Scholars come from public high schools in Western Massachusetts and they are usually the first in their family to strive to go to college. Our Scholars receive tutoring, advising, enrichment, a rigorous, six-week summer residential program and intensive assistance with the college and financial aid application process throughout their high school years. In addition to Department of Education funding (\$334,788), Upward Bound also receives funding from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, the Edwin Webster Foundation and generous in-kind support from Northfield Mount Hermon School which has hosted the program for 45 years.



UPWARD BOUND

*Northfield Mount Hermon School*

**NMH Upward Bound Program**

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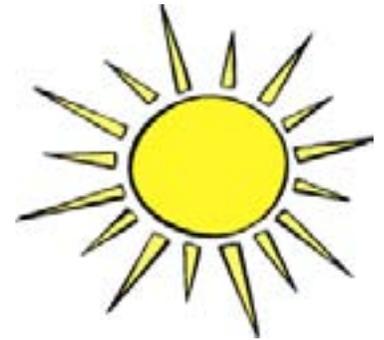
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**[www.nmhschool.org/  
upwardbound](http://www.nmhschool.org/upwardbound)**

**[www.upwardbound.nmhblogs.  
org](http://www.upwardbound.nmhblogs.org)**

## On the road with Upward Bound

During the upcoming April vacation, seven juniors will venture out to Pennsylvania and New York. Students will be hosted overnight by college students so they can experience college life first hand. Included on the tour are Franklin and Marshall, Dickinson, Lafayette and Sarah Lawrence colleges. AmeriCorps member, Adriana Lara, '07, will lead this special three day trip. The last time Upward Bound was able to take students to Pennsylvania, Adriana was a UB student and she recalls discovering Franklin and Marshall College where she eventually enrolled and completed her degree. It is only fitting that she share this special trip with our current students. We hope that like Adriana, some of our juniors will be inspired to apply to schools a bit farther away from home.



College here we come!